



## Life Course

Childhood Resilience Factor

## Brief Name

Feeling of Neighborhood Safety

## Indicator

Percent of children who usually feel safe in their community or neighborhood.

## Description

This question asks parents if they believe their child is safe in their neighborhood. Parents answer the question, "*How often do you feel [child name] is safe in your community or neighborhood?*"

WI	US	Best	Worst
89.5%*	86.6%	94.7%	72.6%
		ID	DC

## Year

2011/2012

## Numerator

Number answering "Usually" or "Always"

## Denominator

Children aged 0-17

\*Indicates statistically significant difference from the US value at  $p < 0.05$ .

## Importance

A persistent feeling of safety decreases the likelihood of exposure to toxic stress and violence, supporting a child's well-being and helping to prevent mental illness through building resilience (Cutrona, 2006). This measure reveals information about the communities in which children grow up, including a child's potential risk of witnessing or experiencing violence, and the child's ability to live and play in his or her community, free of fear. This measure is also important for its ability to separate out the feeling of fear of crime from actual crime (as measured in other OCMH indicators), which has its own, lasting effects on social and emotional development (Fowler & Mangione, 1986).

## Limitations

"Community" and "neighborhood" may be defined differently by each respondent, leading to differences by demographic group or region.

## Source

National Survey of Children's Health (NSCH) 2011/12. Data query from the Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative, Data Resource Center for Child and Adolescent Health website. Retrieved from [www.childhealthdata.org](http://www.childhealthdata.org). Cutrona, Carolyn E., Gail Wallace, and Kristin A. Wesner. "Neighborhood characteristics and depression an examination of stress processes." *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 15.4 (2006): 188-192. Fowler, F. J., Jr., & Mangione, T. W. A three-pronged effort to reduce crime and fear of crime: The Hartford experiment. In D. P. Rosenbaum (Ed.), *Community crime prevention: Does it work?* (pp. 87-108). Newbury Park, CA: Sage. (1986).